



# 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

# TRIDENT

"JUNGLE WARRIORS"



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 4

DUO DUO, VIETNAM

JANUARY 24, 1969

## BRIGADE SOLDIERS NET 48 KILLS

The 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" encountered moderate action this week in southern Quang Ngai Province with 48 enemy KIA 143 detainees, and seven weapons captured.

On Jan. 14, a LRRP team spotted four VC in the open four miles west of Duc Pho and called in artillery, killing one of the insurgents.

"Sykes Regulars" of "A" Company, 1st Bn., 20th Infantry, led by CPT Edward J. Durona (Hinesville, Ga.) killed one evading VC wounded and detained another VCS, and detained 15 VCS, including five draft dodgers, in separate actions 8, 11, and 15 miles north of Duc Pho on Jan 15.

"Gimlets" of "A" Company, 4th Bn., 21st Inf., led by 1LT Thomas L. Smith (Hicksville, N.Y.) killed an NVA soldier and captured his K-44 rifle by a stream 22 miles west of Duc Pho.

On January 16, the "Always First" soldiers of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. accounted for seven NVA kills in heavy action six miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. Three of the kills were recorded by "D" Company, and another was reported by the "Always First" "C" Company.

(WRAP UP Cont on page 4)

## "ALWAYS FIRST" SOLDIERS HIT HEAVY ACTION ON SWEEP

"B" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., commanded by CPT Willie F. Williams (Burlington, N.J.) was led into an ambush by a captured NVA soldier near a village six miles southwest of Quang Ngai City late in the afternoon of January 15 during a routine sweep of the area.

The NVA soldier was supposedly leading the troops of "B" Co. to a rice cache when they were engaged with a heavy volume of machinegun and RPG fire from the village. "C" Co., commanded by CPT William J. Straub (AMBUSH Cont on page 3)



fatigues and boots, and her flowing blond hair down to her shoulders, Gypsy kept the soldiers in constant laughter. She spotted one G.I. minus his shirt, and remarked with a sly smile, "All right, young man, go put your shirt on. We don't have any undressed people in my performance."

## GYPSY ROSE LEE VISITS LZ CORK

Troops from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, and 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery on LZ Cork were paid a welcome visit recently by the ageless Gypsy Rose Lee.

Gypsy, who was appearing with the USO tour at numerous fire bases in the southern I Corps area, waved enthusiastically at the gathered soldiers as she arrived in the Huey helicopter.

Dressed in new jungle

## POPULAR FORCES LEARN USE OF M-16

A classroom where students wear green uniforms is a strange sight, even in Vietnam. At the MACV District Headquarters in Duc Pho, however, classes are being conducted each day for nearby Popular Forces units on the use of the M-16 rifle.

The classes, directed by 1LT William P. Buckley (Lawrence, Mass.), the assistant MACV team advisor, were initiated in mid-January when it was learned that the local PF units would soon be provided (M-16 CLASS Cont on pg 4)

# COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with facts about marijuana and its uses.)

Little is known about the long-term effects of marijuana use. In its mildest form, marijuana does not appear to be physically dangerous. However, the effects of marijuana, caused by chemical ingredients called tetra-hydro-cannabinols (THC), vary with the individual. A given dosage of THC may have no apparent ill effects on one person but may have pronounced effects on another person. You cannot be certain that even a mild form or dose of marijuana is totally safe for you.

In its stronger forms, the THC in marijuana will cause psychotic reactions in almost anyone. Recent studies proving this indicate that there is a strong connection between the use of marijuana preparations and criminal acts. What each individual does in the state of psychosis caused by the THC in marijuana varies with the individual and the circumstances—it cannot be predicted, and this unpredictability makes it extremely dangerous. A report of the New York County Medical Association noted that the habitual use of hashish (a strong form of marijuana) was definitely associated with not only criminal acts and violence, but insanity.

The consumption of marijuana (hashish) produces a variety of immediate mental and physical effects which become more pronounced with chronic use. The 1965 reports on Drug Dependence for the World Health Organization describes some

## "OLD GUARD" TROOPER ENDS ENEMY FLIGHT FOR SAFETY

In September of 1968, "C" Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry of the 11th Infantry Brigade was engaged in a routine search and clear mission just north of Duc Pho. As they neared a deserted village and began to approach the area from the south, one of the men looked into the village and spotted a Viet Cong running toward a tunnel opening.

Although the "Old Guard" soldiers shouted "Dung Lai," and fired over his head, the VC failed to stop, and SP4 Richard Miller (Newark, Calif.) tried to stop him by wounding him. SP4 Miller's aim was accurate, hitting the insurgent in the arm. The (SILVER STAR Cont on pg 3)

of these effects. They include distortion of sensation and perception, impaired judgment and memory, distorted emotional responses, irritability and confusion. Other effects, which show up after repeated use of marijuana or hashish, include illusions and delusions which make individuals inclined to antisocial behavior, anxiety and aggressiveness and sleep disturbance.

While he is under the influence of marijuana, an individual's concepts of time and space can be radically distorted. His response to emergency situations can be unpredictable, and in Vietnam this can cost lives. Life may have its dull moments, but it also has its crises. At these sudden and unexpected times, a person who is "high" is not sharp enough to depend upon.

Another important reason for not using "pot" stems from its being against Federal law to use or possess. The penalties for a first offense can be as much as 10 years in a penitentiary and a \$20,000 fine.

The possession, use or sale of marijuana is likewise a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, punishable by courts-martial with the possibility of Dishonorable Discharge and up to five years in prison. Administratively, the United States Government may also impose and collect a tax of \$100 for each ounce or fraction of an ounce possessed.

The answer to the question "What does drug abuse have to do with me?" is important. You, as a member of the Armed Forces have a special dependency on each of your fellow servicemen and he has a special dependency on you.

(Next week we will continue with the third article dealing with a very important topic, marijuana.)

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# CAPT. MAX

BY SP5 LOU TEDD

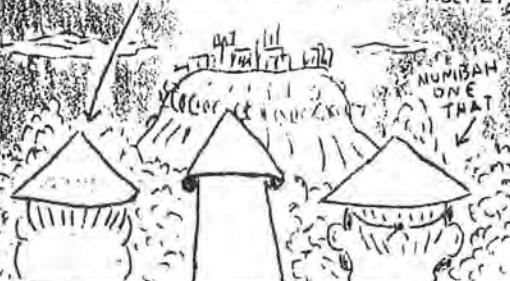
WE LEFT OUR HEROES ON THEIR WAY TO LZ LINUS. FOLLOWING THEM IS THE DREADED DUO.



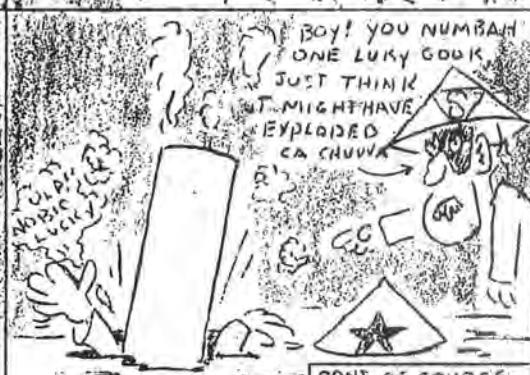
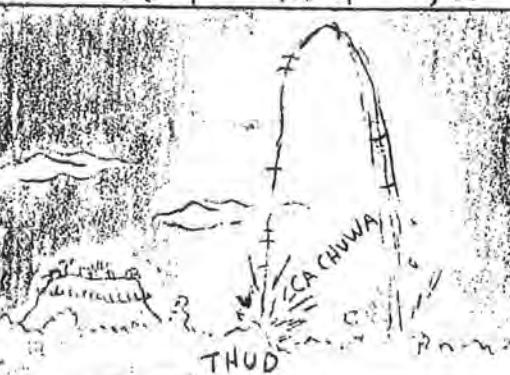
MEAN WHILE SUPER GOOK AND CA CHUWA ARE PLANNING THEIR ATTACK ON THE NEW LZ AND CAPT. MAX.



I'LL MOVE UP CLOSE AND OBSERVE NUMBAH ONE DESTRUCTION, SUPER GOOK I GIVE YOU THE HONOR TO FIRE ROCKET.



SUPER GOOK PULLS MUCH TOO HARD ON THE FIRING CORD AND THE ROCKET IS JERKED STRAIGHT UPWARD.



CONT. OF COURSE

(SILVER STAR Cont fr pg 2)  
VC was still able to get to the tunnel. He was not safe, however, for SP4 Larry Goodwin (Springfield Tenn.) had followed the wounded animal into its lair.

Armed with only a flashlight and .45 caliber pistol, "Ghody" began to move through the tunnel slowly, checking for booby traps as he went. Suddenly, Goodwin heard movement in front of him, moving in his direction. He backed out of the tunnel and just as he cleared it, an enemy grenade landed at his feet at the tunnel entrance.

Disregarding his own (SILVER STAR Cont on pg 4)

## "C" AND "D" COMPANIES FLANK ENEMY VILLAGE

(NVA AMBUSH Cont from page 1)  
(Mt. Kiscoe, N.Y.), and "D" Co., commanded by CPT John S. Walker (Wakefield, R.I.), of the same battalion, rushed to "B" Co.'s aid.

Flanking the village, "C" and "D" companies poured heavy fire into it as darkness fell. Continuous illumination was provided throughout the night by Air Force flare ships as the action continued. At 1:30 in the morning, "D" Co. reported killing three NVA and "C" Co. one.

Just after dawn, the three companies began sweeping the village, killing seven enemy in the resulting action. Twenty-two enemy suspects were rounded up, some carrying documents.

Captured from the NVA were one AK-47 rifle, one 9mm pistol, assorted military equipment, and documents, including a map of the Quang Ngai area.

## BRONCO BUSTIN' BRIGADE SOLDIERS RIDE WITH 1/20

Most infantrymen have a legitimate fear of the infamous water buffalo whose unpredictable temperament can turn him on the surprised soldier in the blink of an eye.

There are, however, two 11th Brigade soldiers from "D" Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., who are not new to such dangers. Both were rodeo riders before they arrived in Vietnam.

SP4 Victor Silvas (North Fork, Calif.) rode in his first rodeo at Bishop, Calif., when he was just 12 years old. Although he now participates in only three riding events, bare-back bronco, saddle bronco, and brahma bull riding, he has ridden in all rodeo events. SP4 Silvas now carries a machine gun for his platoon.

"Saddle broncs are the most difficult to ride, but the bulls are the most dangerous," he explained. "I like bulls the best, though."

While attending junior college SP4 Silvas was the captain of the school's rodeo team. He says, "Rodeo is a good life with lots of excitement and good times to go with the broken bones and bruises. I've never been hurt seriously, so I'll probably ride again when I get home."

SGT Derateo Lasa (McDermitt, Nev.) was not as lucky as SP4 Silvas. While helping a fellow rider put a bull in a chute, the bull turned on him. The bull ran over him, breaking his arm from elbow to shoulder.

Bare-back bronco riding is SGT Lasa's forte. He gained his initial riding experience on his parent's ranch. He, like SP4 Silvas, also rode on his college rodeo team.

SGT Lasa, who is a squad leader with "D" Co., has rodeoed in Idaho, Oregon and Nevada. The biggest rodeo he participated in was in Lovelock, Nevada.

"Rodeo riding is a lot safer than chasing Charlie, but I won't take it up seriously when I get back to the states," exclaimed SGT Lasa. "I really don't need any more excitement after this year, or broken arms."

## "GIMLETS" RECON ELEMENT NAB THREE VC KILLS

(WRAP UP Cont from pg 1)

In the largest action on Jan. 17, the Recon element of 4/21st, led by 1LT Robert S. McEldowney (Hi-lo, Hawaii) engaged five VC near a stream 25 miles west of Duc Pho, and killed three. An AK-47 was captured.

A SRP team from 1/20th spotted three NVA soldiers in green uniforms heading into the mountains six miles northwest of Duc Pho. They called in artillery from the 6/11th and killed one NVA.

On Jan. 18, "Gimlets" of "C" Co., 4th Bn., 21st Infantry, operating four miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, accounted for four VC killed with accurate small arms fire. In the same area at the same time, a "Shark" gunship from the 174th Assault Helicopter Co. spotted and killed an evading VC.

(WRAP UP Cont on page 6)



(M-16 Cont from page 1)

with the M-16 rifle. Shipment of the weapon has been delayed, but the project is well underway.

The classes are now being taught by the Vietnamese themselves and are scheduled to include members of 14 RF platoons and three Regional Force companies. The Vietnamese soldiers are now being shown how to clean and operate the M-16 properly. Later, when the weapons arrive, the PFs will be allowed to fire on a rifle range to get acquainted with the new M-16s.

"The PFs have a great deal of respect for the M-16," said 1LT Buckley. "They've seen the American soldier use them and they know how effective they are."

1LT Buckley hopes the new weapon will make the PFs more aggressive in hunting the enemy.

(SILVER STAR Cont fr pg 3)  
safety and thinking only of the safety of those around him, "Goody" grabbed the grenade and tossed it back into the tunnel. As it left his hand, the grenade detonated, inflicting minor wounds upon the soldier. Displaying the courage that the men of Charlie Company have learned to expect of him, Goodwin then re-entered the tunnel, routing another VC and finding that the first had been killed by the grenade.

Because of his heroic and selfless actions, SP4 Goodwin prevented many of his friends from being killed or seriously wounded, and on Jan. 4, 1969, he was presented the Silver Star for gallantry.





## RECON PLATOON SURPRISES UNSUSPECTING NVA FORCE

The effectiveness of a reconnaissance platoon may stem from the fact that the platoon moves in squad-size units, and is therefore able to be extremely quiet and less likely to be detected by the enemy. In effect, it may be said that in this way, the recon platoon actually employs the enemy's tactics and uses them against him.

The men of the recon platoon of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. are highly competent in their ability to turn the enemy's tactics against him, and because of this, were recently able to overcome five NVA as they moved west of LZ Amy.

SP4 Mike Bourgoine was acting as point man when he spotted the five NVA directly in front of him and moving in his direction on the trail. Bourgoine signaled the rest of his squad to move off the trail and wait for the enemy to approach them.

When the first of the NVA was only three feet from his, Bourgoine jumped directly in front of him and blasted him with a burst from his M-16.

Due to a dented cartridge, Bourgoine's weapon jammed. Supported by his squad, he then began to (RECON Cont on page 6)

## "JUNGLE WARRIORS" RETURN TO BUFF--FIND VC SURPRISES

Returning to a formerly used fire base which has been abandoned for a few weeks can be an extremely hazardous business.

This is due to the fact that the enemy is very cunning and takes advantage of any opportunity to place mines and booby trap areas where American forces are likely to return.

When booby trapping an abandoned fire base, the enemy attempts to place mines and booby traps in those areas where he believes they will inflict the greatest number of casualties. For this reason, he is most likely to concentrate on old helicopter landing pads, bunkers, and well-worn trails on the firebase.

The men of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf., and "C" Battery 6th of the 11th Arty., have recently been confronted with this devious enemy tactic as they moved to LZ Buff. It had been abandoned about three weeks.

The move was made in order to defend Quang Ngai City from enemy forces operating in that area, and was eventful from the beginning.

The first helicopter to reach the LZ attempted to land four times on the old pad. He decided that the

pad didn't look right, and landed beside it instead. When the pad was checked later with mine detecting equipment, three booby traps were found.

The first unit to land on Buff was a squad from (4/21 cont. on page 6)

## GUESTS DROP IN AND "OLD GUARD" SAYS HELLO

Delta Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. found themselves with over 800 "Guests" last week while working in Operation Russell Beach, on the Batangan Peninsula 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. The area had been subjected to an intensive PSYOPS campaign which promised the people safety if they turned themselves in.

"They started coming from the far end of the beach about 0730," explained CPT John Blanks, "D" Co. commander. "They came to our perimeter in groups of 40 or 50. When they saw that no harm had come to the first group, they began covering the beach like ants."

CPT Blanks explained that the enemy had been holding the people and forcing them to cook their meals and work for them. During the previous evening

air strikes and artillery were called into the area, and they decided to let the people go. They even showed them where the mines and booby traps were placed.

1LT Frank Manning, FO for "B" Co., 4/3, said, "This is the same way it's happened before. They let the people go, then hold up in the villages for a last stand.

(D 4/3 Cont on page 6)



(WRAP UP Cont from page 4)

"A" Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., operating six miles northwest of Duc Pho, killed one VC in a brief fire fight. Another enemy was wounded but escaped.

On Jan. 19, "Shark" gun ships engaged four VC evading them near the village of Mo Duc, and killed all four insurgents. They were supporting "A" Co., 1/20th, which later detained 26 VCS as they were moving in Mo Duc on Highway 1. The other kill was also credited to the gun

ships as they spotted one evading VC outside of the village.

"B" Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., accounted for two NVA kills and detained 22 suspects as they operated in an area five miles northwest of Quang Ngai City on Jan. 20.

In morning action, the "Shark" gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Co. spotted two evading VC seven miles north of Duc Pho and killed both insurgents.

(D 4/3 Cont from page 5)

The people have proven to be a gold mine of information, providing the location of minefields, booby traps, enemy troops, and other valuable information.

"We've really had a field day out here," CPT Blanks said. "Earlier in the week we found 2½ to 3 tons of rice, clothes, 200 pounds of VC and NVA documents, freshly cleaped uniforms, a flag plant and subversive pamphlets in Vietnamese and English."

"I can't complain at all about this operation," he continued. "We've had excellent cooperation and support all the way."

## "GIMLETS" SHUN ENEMY'S HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE WELCOME

"C" Co., 4/21st. As the squad departed the aircraft, one man stepped on a "Bouncing Betty" anti-personnel mine. Luckily, only the booster charge detonated, inflicting minor wounds upon one man.

It became obvious that LZ Buff was highly mined and booby trapped as the men began to find many hidden, although most were marked with piles of rocks and bamboo stakes.

The first action taken by the "Gimlets" was to begin digging new bunker sites. The old bunkers were left untouched since it was highly probable that they had been booby trapped. As the "Gimlets" dug in, they frequently found old mortar rounds and mines, and the warning, "Fire in the hole," was a much-used expression as the ordnance was blown in place.

Many of the booby traps were of the "home-made" variety, but still highly dangerous.

One such booby trap was constructed from a soda bottle which was crammed with explosives and designed to be detonated by the fuse from an American grenade. When this particular trap was blown in place, it left a gaping hole approximately two feet deep and two feet wide as evidence of its power.

The men of the 4/21st Inf., and "C" Battery, 6/11th Arty. displayed competent professionalism as they secured LZ Buff and foiled the enemy's attempt to inflict heavy casualties upon them.

(RECON Cont from page 5) throw hand grenades at the then retreating NVA.

SP4 Bourgoine and the rest of his squad began chasing the NVA, who fired and threw grenades as they withdrew.

Suddenly, SGT John Neil was startled as he came face to face with one of the NVA who was standing over the body of one of his comrades with an AK-47 in his hand.

Due to the fact that SGT Neil was wearing a black shirt, the NVA didn't immediately realize that he was facing an American soldier and hesitated long enough to allow the SGT to get off the first shot.

The men later kill more NVA and capture rifles, an AK-47 and

